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Message Text

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44
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 A-01 OPR-02 OC-06 CCO-00 MMO-01

FS-01 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-13 AID-05 SCS-03 SCA-01 PER-01

SSM-03 SY-05 DPW-01 DHA-02 /110 W
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O P 271434Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1361
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 32
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BEOGIUM
CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER
CIA WASHDC
COMSIXTHFLT
COMPHIBRON FOUR
COM THREE TWO MAU
CTF SIX ZERO
CTF SIX ONE
CTF SIX TWO
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN
DIA WASHDC
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 6654

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E.O. 11652: GDS
OAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE
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SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION JULY 27: US EVACUATION WITHOUT PROBLEMS;

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PALESTINIAN DELEGATION IN DAMASCUS TO BRING BACK DRAFT AGREEMENT

REF: BEIRUT 6621

1. SUMMARY: U.S. NAVAL DEPARTURE TOOK SOME 300 PERSONS FROM WEST BEIRUT IN SMOOTH AND FAST OPERATION MARRED ONLY BY SOME ATTEMPTS PREVENT DEPARTURE OF LEGITIMATE PALESTINIAN REGISTRANTS. DRAFT SYRIAN
-
PALESTINIAN AGREEMENT BEING WIDELY DISCUSSED IN BEIRUT. PLO APPEARS WILLING TO COMPROMISE HEAVILY, BUT LEBANESE LEFTISTS INSIST ON SYRIAN MILITARY WITHDRAWAL. RIGHTISTS HAVE NOT YET BEEN HEARD FROM. ARAB LEAGUE DEPUTY OBTAINS AGREEMENT FOR LOCAL CEASEFIRE AT TELL ZAATAR TO EVACUATE WOUNDED DESPITE FAILURE OF JULY 25 CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT, NOW CLEARLY BLAMED ON CHAMOUNISTS. LEBANESE POLITICIANS IN WEST BEIRUT IGNORE CALL TO MEETING OF HOUSE OF DEPUTIES. ISLAMIC GROUP FAILS TO AGREE ON STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES. HUNDREDS CLAIMED TRAPPED UNDERGROUN
D
AT TELL ZAATAR MAY DIE OF THIRST. NABAA FIGHTING INCREASES. EXPECTATI
ONS
OF CHRISTIAN OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS IN THE HIGH METN. SITUATION ELSEWHE
RE
RELATIVELY QUIET. END SUMMARY.

2. SOME 300 PERSONS DEPARTED WEST BEIRUT ON US NAVY LANDING CRAFT FOR USS CORONADO, WHICH DEPARTED LEBANESE WATERS AT 1025 LOCAL. ONLY DIFFICULTIES CONCERNED PARTIAL ATTEMPTS BY PLO TO DETAIN FEW PALESTINIANS WHO WERE LEGITIMATELY REGISTERED FOR DEPARTURE. L'ORIENT LE JOUR CARRIED AFP AND REUTERS STORY THAT WHITE HOUSE WAS CLOSELY FOLLOWING OPERATION AND STRESSED PRESENCE OF ELEMENTS OF US SIXTH FLEET NEAR LEBANON.

3. TERMS OF DRAFT AGREEMENT BETWEEN PALESTINIAN DELEGATION IN DAMASCUS AND SYRIANS BEING WIDELY DISCUSSED IN BEIRUT. PRESIDENT ASSAD'S EMISSARY, COL MUHAMMAD KHOLI, SAID THAT TWO SIDES ALREADY HAV
E
CLEAR AGREEMENTS ON CERTAIN POINTS. HE SAID FIRST OBJECTIVE IS CEASEFIRE, TO BE FOLLOWED BY REACTIVATION OF CAIRO ACCORDS, TO BE ENFORCED BY BOTH "ARAB PEACE FORCES" AND SYRIAN TROOPS. IT APPEARS THAT LEBANESELEFTISTS STILL DEMAND COMPLETE SYRIAN WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANESE TERRITORY AS MATTER OF PRINCIPLE BUT ARE PREPARED LET PLO
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DEVELOP ITS OWN POSTIION ON THE QUESTION. AN-NAHAR AND AS-SAFIR SAY DRAFT AGREEMENT DOES NOT ADDRESS QUESTION OF SYRIAN WITHDRAWAL AT ALL, BUT THAT SYRIANS MAY HAVE VERBALLY PROMISED WITHDRAWAL AS FAR AS SOFAR. ARAFAT REPORTEDLY HAS TOLD JUMBLAT T THAT PLO DELEGATION MEETING WITH ASSAD WENT WELL. DELEGATION EXPECTED RETURN TO BEIRUT JULY 27 WITH DRAFT AGREEMENT. ONE NEW IDEA IT MAY INCORPORATE IS SYRIAN PROPOSAL FOR TRIPARTITE SYRIAN-LEBANESE-PALESTINIAN COMMITTEE TO SUPERVISE A CEASEFIRE. NO INDICATIONS YET OF CHRISTIAN ATTITUDES,

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ALTHOUGH SYRIANS AND CHRISTAIANS HAVE BEEN IN CLOSE COMMUNICATION
THROUGHOUT TALKS, IN BOTH DAMASCUS AND BEIRUT.

4. DESPITE FAILURE OF JULY 25 CEASEFIRE, AL DEPUTY HASSAN SABRI KHOL
I
MET KFOUR FRONT LEADERS JULY 26 AND ANNOUNCED NEW AGREEMENT, THIS TIM
E
ON EVACUATION OF WOUNDED FROM TELL ZAATAR. ICRC HAD PREVIOUSLY
SENT NOTE TO AL STATING ITS CONTINUED READINESS TO CARRY OUT
EVACUATION AND UNWILLING NESS TO ACCEPT ANY PRIOR CONDITIONS BY ANY
PARTY (THIS IN RESPONSE TO VARIOUS RIGHTIST DEMANDS THAT PRISONERS
BE EVACUATED BEFORE WOUNDED AND THAT EVACUEES BE INTERROGATED BY
RIGHTISTS BEFORE EVACUATION) AND STRESSING IMPORTANCE OF SUFFICIENT
TIME TO COMPLETE OPERATION. KHOLI SAID KFOUR LEADERS APPROVE
EVACUATION IN LINE WITH ICRC NOTE BUT THAT ICRC SHOULD SUBMIT PLAN
FOR OPERATION TO AL, KFOUR AND PALESTINIANS/LEFTISTS BEFOREHAND.
KHOLI SAID TO PRESS THAT JULY 25 CEASEFIRE FAILURE WAS DUE TO
"MISUNDERSTANDINGS." BUT REPORTEDLY HE HAS PRIVATELY DIRECTLY
ACCUSED CHAMOUN AND NATIONAL LIBERAL REPRESENTATIVE WHO
DID ATTEND TALKS LAST WEEK BEFORE CEASEFIRE, REITERATED NATIONAL
LIBERALS' OPPOSITION TO ANY PARTIAL CEASEFIRE NOT SIGNED BY ALL
PARTIES (ESPECIALLY NASSERISTS) AND TO ANY STATIONING OF AL TROOPS
IN MARONITE TERRITORY.

5. EFFORT BY DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE FADIL TO CONVENE DEPUTIES
IN WEST BEIRUT (SITREP JULY 26) FAILED WHEN ONLY FIVE APPEARED. MANY
MORE WENT TO MEETING OF "ISLAMIC GROUP" WITH PRIME MINISTER
KARAME, WHERE GROUP WAS UNABLE TO AGREE ON ADOPTION OF A STATEMENT
OF PRINCIPLES DRAFTED BY TAKIEDDINE SOLH, CHAFIC WAZZAN AND JAMIL
KEBBE. GROUP IS TO MEET AGAIN JULY 28.

6. ON THE GROUND IN BEIRUT, RED CRESCENT SAYS 500 PERSONS
CLAIMED STILL TRAPPED UNDERGROUND AT TELL ZAATAR HAVE ONLY FEW
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MORE HOURS TO LIVE IF NOT RESUPPLIED WITH WATER. NO GROUND ACTION
AT TELL ZAATAR JULY 26, BUT BOMBARDMENTS CONTINUE. IN NABAA AREA,
RIGHTISTS, POSSIBLY AIDED BY ARMENIANS, ATTACKED PALESTINIAN/
LEFTIST POSTIONS AT TRAD CAMP AND SIN EL-FIL. NATIONAL LIBERALS'
"TIGERS" CLAIM TO HAVE "LIBERATED" 250 SHIITES AT BOURJ-HAMMOUD.
EAST AND WEST BEIRUT EXCHANGED RANDOM ARTILLERY FIRE.

7. ELSEWHERE, IN THE HIGH METN, PALESTINIANS/LEFTISTS AT
AINTOURA AND MTEIN CLAIM NOW UNDER ATTACK BY INFANTRY BATTALION
AND ARMORED BATTALION FROM AREA OF SANNINE-ZAAROUR. ARTILLERY
DUELS CONTINUE BETWEEN TRIPOLI AND ZGHORTA. RIGHTIST RADIO CLAIMS
PALESTINIANS HAVE RECEIVED LARGE QUANTITIES OF ARMS FROM LIBYA
BY SHIP AT TRIPOLI. WHETHER TRUE OR NOT, CHARGE IS GOOD JUSTIFICATIO
N
FOR CHRISTIAN/SYRIAN MILITARY ACTION TO RESTRICT USE OF PORT.

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